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Now is the Time to Formulate Those New Year Resolutions.

KEARNS GETS 10 TO 21 YEARS.

Bank Robber Pleads Guilty in The District Court.

HIS SIGNED CONFESSION.

The case of the State of Kansas Vs. Joseph S. Kearns, charged with robbery in the first degree was called for trial Wednesday. The court appointed D. A. Banta and J. W. Clarke as counsel for the prisoner, and they withdrew to the jury room for a conference.

After some talk with their client, the sheriff was instructed to bring into court, Drs. Morrison, Button, Kendall and Sutherland, who examined the prisoner with regard to his sanity. After the physicians had made their report, Kearns was again brought into the court room, and after reading the complaint by the county attorney, and a brief statement from Attorney Banta, in which he said he had advised his client to plead guilty, the court asked Kearns if



JOSEPH S. KEARNS.

he was ready to plead to the charge.

His answer was that he was ready to plead guilty, and said that he knew that he had done wrong, and had resolved to do better in the future. He asked the court to be as lenient as possible in his case.

Judge Brinkerhoff talked to Kearns for some minutes in a straightforward manner in which he referred to his past life, and to the confession which he had made since his arrest here, and told him that in the light of that confession that he did not believe it would be right for him to show him any leniency, even if it were in his power. The judge went on to say that any young man who would deliberately choose the path that he had, when the world was all the time demanding young men for good positions, and as the medical experts had said that he was sane, and fully capable of judging between right and wrong, that sympathy was out of place. After lecturing the prisoner for probably five minutes or more, the court announced that it was the judgement and sentence of the court that the prisoner be taken back to the Barton county jail and be there confined until such time as the sheriff could make it convenient to take him to the state penitentiary at Lansing, near Leavenworth, and that he be there confined for not less than ten years, nor more than twenty-one years, and be discharged therefrom according to law.

Kearns showed no particular emotion at the sentence of the court, and resumed his seat quietly as the crowd began to file out of the court rooms.

Below is the signed confession of Kearns given to the Pinkerton detective two days after his arrest here:

I, Joseph S. Kearns, now confined in the County Jail of Barton County, do make the following statement, voluntarily and of my own free will and accord, without any promises or threats whatever being made: About four and a half or five years ago I was employed as Soda Fountain clerk in the drug store of E. E. Calkins at Ann Arbor, Michigan. During the time I was employed there I stole a draft for forty dollars from my aunt Miss Brennan. A young fellow named Swarthout was also employed there in the drug store as soda fountain clerk. The branch Post office was conducted in the drug store and he stole forty dollars in money out of the branch post office in the Calkins store. We both stole a box of cigars each out of the store and then went to Chicago where we remained until we spent the money and then returned to Ann Arbor, Mich. Swarthout was arrested but let go and my aunt Miss Brennan failed to prosecute me on my promise that I would pay back the money. Prior to September 1906, I was employed as inside Steward for eight months at the Virginia Hotel in Chicago. I worked for Mandel Bros. Chicago, in 1908 for three months and again in 1905 for eight months from them went to the Wells Fargo Express Co., where I remained eight months during 1905. I know Ralph Reynolds, the Steward at the Virginia Hotel and his father who ran the hotel, also the Chef Charles Buxieux and Arthur Snyder the assistant Steward. I then shipped to Southern Dakota to the harvest where I remained one week, I do not now remember the town. From there I went back to Chicago, where I worked for the City Press Association as reporter for about three weeks, after that I went to Hammond, Indiana where I worked on the Lake County Times as reporter. I remained there about one month. I then went to Newton, Kansas having shipped from Chicago. I remained in Newton, Kansas four or five days and boarded with a lady at 125 Fifth street. On November the 13th about three o'clock in the afternoon I held up the Midland National Bank with 38 Iver & Johnson revolver. I got from the Bank \$1800. I returned to my boarding house after doing the bank job and remained there three days. I then went over the Santa Fe Railroad to Kansas City and from there to Chicago over the Rock Island, remaining in Kansas City about thirty minutes. I remembered I had \$500 in twenties, \$400 in tens, and the balance in fives, twos and ones. From Chicago, I went to Ann Arbor, Michigan where I gave my mother, Mary Kearns, \$160. I gave my Aunts Miss Ann, and Miss Julia \$55. They live at 1049 West 54th Place, Chicago, Ill. My mother runs a boarding house at 615 Liberty street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, her name is Mary Kearns. I bought clothes, jewelry, sported around considerably and then took a trip to New York where I remained four days, came back to Chicago and went to Ann Arbor. I told my mother that I got the money honestly and to my aunts I said I was gambling and won it. I paid Miss Celia Brennan my aunt in Ann Arbor the \$40 I owed her on the stolen draft. While sporting around Chicago I spent lots of money. While in New York I occupied room 38 at Belmont Hotel for which I paid \$6.00 per day for the room alone. I ate in the Cafe underneath for which I paid cash. I have not got a cent of the money now either on deposit in any bank nor in the hands of any of my

friends or relatives. I bought a ring at Liebolt's Co. State street Chicago, for which I paid \$85. I also bought a scarf pin at Spaulding's on State street for which I paid \$27. After returning from New York I soaked the ring and pin for \$40. I soaked them at Frank's Loan Office on Clark near Madison street, Chicago. I destroyed the tickets I soaked them under the name of George J. Lewis. I remained in the Sherman House at Chicago five days where I registered as Joseph Kearns of Denver, Colo. My bill there was \$15. After leaving Newton and coming to Chicago first I stayed at the Gerat Northern three days. I paid the clerk \$21 when I went there and when I was leaving they refunded me \$11. I registered as Joseph Kearns, of Denver, Colorado, and occupied room J.40. The room I had at the Sherman House the five days I was there was Parlour O. The reason I selected Newton as a field for a bank hold up was that about two years ago I worked at the Santa Fe Round house there as wiper and painter and in that time I learned the city. I was in Newton only one day before I robbed the Bank.

I have heard this my true statement read and it is absolutely correct.

Jos. S. Kearns.

Witness.

J. S. Dalziel, Sheriff State of Kansas, County of Barton.

Subscribed to before me Dec. 1, 1906, J. Geo. Brinkman, Notary Public Com. expires July 20, 1908. (seal)

TO OUR PATRONS AND FRIENDS.

We desire to express to you our appreciation of the business that you have so kindly given us since our opening twenty-one years ago.

We appreciate our early made friends for it has meant much to us to be able to day to exhibit the financial condition we do. For, we say it proudly, no bank in this part of the country has in that length of time grown so rapidly or has enjoyed more friendly interest and good wishes for future success.

For this we are indeed grateful and we fully intend to do all in our power to merit this esteem and its continuance in the future.

Permit us to solicit your continued favors. If a depositor, we trust your account will be large and grow continually larger as the New Year ripens on. If a borrower, we sincerely hope the investment made is going the right way and proving the wisdom of your judgement, for, when our patrons prosper we rejoice.

To our friends who have not yet commenced business relations with us we extend a cordial invitation to begin with the new year. We feel sure you wish us a prosperous business. Come, begin your new bank account with us and let us grow together. No account too large for us to handle, none too small to receive the same careful attention and withal, the fullest appreciation. Do not forget that we have safety deposit boxes for rent to place your valuable papers in and you carry the key. We also have branch banks for the children.

The old year is about wound out and, facing the opening of another year we extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and with the health and prosperity for you and yours.

Very truly yours,

First National Bank,

Great Bend, Kans.

G. L. Chapman, Pres.

Preaching at District 33. next Sunday at 3 o'clock.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

E. E. Smith has returned from Lyons.

F. M. McHale was over from Hoisington, Wednesday.

Miss Maude Luse is home from Lindsborg for the holidays.

The new county officers will take their places January 14th.

The High Five club meet with Dr. and Mrs. Morrison Wednesday evening.

Joe Shneider was down from Walnut township Wednesday on business.

Father Heimann and Frank Rziha were down from the Odin Wednesday.

Will Steckle and Geo. Barrows were two east side citizens in town Tuesday.

D. O. Gray was renewing old acquaintances on this side of the Cheyenne bottom Tuesday.

The Barker house on Broadway, occupied by B. J. Meyer, is having a new porch built on in front.

Miss Bertha Coopridge returned Tuesday evening from an extended visit in Omaha and Kansas City.

Joe Koehler was up from Logan township Wednesday paying taxes and transacting other business.

Chas. Andress and wife arrived Wednesday evening to spend the holidays with their many friends in this city.

The Progress Club did not meet this week, and will hold no further meetings until January 7th, next year.

Mrs. E. J. Dodge Sr., is expecting a visit from one of her daughters in a day or two, from her home in Iowa.

William Oltmans, trustee of Homestead township, was in the city Wednesday, transacting business at the court house.

The Irishman from Texas and his partner defeated the boasted champion of the east end of gospel ridge Monday night in a pitch battle.

P. E. Murphy and wife returned Tuesday evening from their visit in eastern Kansas and in Missouri. They report having had a very fine time.

Claude Lippincott of the First National Barber shop left Tuesday night for St. Joe, Texas, in response to a telegram announcing the serious illness of his mother.

The state board of education has granted five years institute conductors certificates to E. F. Ewing and Prof. Strong, and one year certificates to W. L. Bowersox, and Miss Alice Reynolds.

Rev. and Mrs. L. P. Broad and Rev. H. E. Thayer will speak at the Congregational church next Sunday. Services as usual except that there will be a childrens meeting at 3 p. m. Be sure to hear them.

The Lundblade Bolinger store was compelled to close their doors at one time last Saturday. The Christmas rush assumed such proportions that neither their room nor their corps of clerks could handle the situation.

R. B. Warren, formerly a resident of this city, but now living at Wichita where he is state agent for one of the big insurance companies, was in the city Tuesday, visiting with friends, and looking after business.

Otto Patton and family left Thursday morning for Pittsburg, Kansas, and Nevada, Mo., for a visit with relatives and to spend Christmas at home. It will be the first time in ten years that all the family have been together at Christmas.

The Fable of the Wise Men.

Once upon a time there were two men living in the west end of the city of Great Bend. They were very friendly. In fact they were a great deal alike, and sort of chummy, to the extent that people thought they were related in some way, but both prided themselves that there was no truth in that statement. They were rather small of stature, but thought they could hoe their own row in most any sort of an undertaking. They were taught, as they thought, the rudiments of the games of whist and pitch, and soon got what the boys on the street call chesty about their playing qualities.

There were also two other men who were very friendly and close neighbors, rather large, but not considered among the best whist or pitch players. Now it so happened that one evening not long ago, when there was no lodge meeting for either of the four, that they arranged to meet at the home of one of the big men and spend a pleasant evening tapping a cider barrel and playing (1) cards. The little men were full of confidence, ginger, and bluster. The big men were full of doubt, hope, and meek as lambs. Whist was the game. The big men won the first round. They scored again the second round, again the third round. Cider, pop corn and cigars were resorted to but availed the little fellows nothing. Finally the big men had won five to the other men one. Everything was changed. Overcoats were suggested for the chairs, but the good housewife brought in hot coffee and cake, and the men who thought they knew how to play sat up and took notice. Then they changed to pitch. Luck changed, the little men won the first game, then luck changed again, and stayed changed most of the time, until the big men had won six out of nine games. Then the little men had an urgent call for home, and ran a foot race to get there. Moral—Be careful what you eat and drink when playing cards, and don't claim a championship until you have won it.

B. P. Walker in the Osborne Farmer: Young man, why don't you be decent? Why not grow to manhood with honor and credit instead of a stain upon your character? It is just as easy. It is always easier to be a man than to be a rowdy. Cigarettes and gambling and whiskey have had many a wrestle with boys long before you came on this scene and they have never yet been thrown. Don't get the idea into your head that you are going to turn the trick. If you don't want to be decent for yourself, be decent for others. There is one heart whose sorrows should appeal to you. There is one who has faced everything for your sake; one who has to bear the cross for your foolishness. You don't want your trail through this world stained with a mother's tears. The boy who turns a brazen face to a mother's grief never gets very far on the road to happiness. When he gets a little older you find his name on the police docket of various cities, and a little later the dark shadows of stone walls loom up across his pathway. Without honor, home or friends. 'Tis a sad picture but it is painted every day in every town in this broad land. The pathway of the transgressor is one of rocks and thorns. When you bruise your feet the world will laugh at you just as you laughed at your mother's appeals. There is only one system for a boy to follow. Be decent. It always pays dividends.

SENT 2,500 LETTERS.

Secretary Heath Preparing for Big Meeting of Stock Breeders.

Secretary H. A. Heath, of the Kansas Improved Stock Breeder's association, is sending out this week preliminary announcements for the seventeenth annual meeting of the Kansas Improved Stock Breeders' association, which will be held at the state capitol on January 7, 8 and 9, 1907.

The executive committee of this state association has planned for this annual event a very attractive program which will include a symposium on the horse, cattle, sheep, and swine husbandry. Besides, a number of distinguished speakers who are recognized authorities on animal husbandry have been secured for this event.

The seventeenth annual meeting will have important business to consider in connection with the regular program, such as the proposed semicentennial of 1911, the state fair, and needed legislation, especially along railroad lines.

The secretary has sent out this week over 2,500 letters to members and stockmen throughout the state, and he anticipates that it will be the largest and most important meeting ever held by the stockmen of Kansas.

The present officers of the association are as follows: President, S. G. Hanna, Howard; vice president, Geo. W. Berry, Emporia; secretary-treasurer, H. A. Heath, Topeka; assistant secretary, I. D. Graham, Topeka.

Directors: M. S. Babcock, Nortonville; Dr. O. O. Wolf, Ottawa; H. M. Kirkpatrick, Woltcott; E. Harrington, Baker; H. W. Avery, Wakefield.

Mrs. D. Turner, who has been quite ill for some time past, is improving now, and was able to be out for a short time last Sunday.

Probate Judge Torrey issued a marriage license on Monday of this week to William Shuss, of Garfield, Kansas, and Anna Meyers, of Heizer.

Somebody has a pair of steel frame spectacles in a case at this office, and there is also a bunch of keys with a patent spring chain attached that the owner can get here.

The A. O. U. W. lodge at Pawnee Rock expect to initiate a large class some evening next week, and have invited the degree team of the Great Bend lodge to put the work on.

Most of the cases on the docket for this term of court, that would require the services of a jury, have been settled without going to trial and unless the jurors are needed in the Kerns case, they will be discharged.

Considerable activity is being manifested among the members of the W. O. W. The prize of a gold watch which has been offered to the member bringing in the most applications by March 1st, has woke some of the boys up a little.

Rev. Summerville and wife left Tuesday for Fort Worth, Texas, where they will be located in the future. Rev. Summerville has made a very large number of friends since being in our city, whose best wishes go with him to his new location.

I think we can make as much improvement again in this county as we have made, by planting trees, and seeds, and shrubbery. If you will kindly send me your name and correct address and stamp for reply, I will send you the name of one of the largest catalogue houses in this country. August Garling.